
FY 2020
SMALL NEPA PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

Please **do not leave any field BLANK**.

Submit form electronically (as Word doc) to james.chynoweth@usda.gov by **August 7, 2020**.

Project Name	Pinnacle Creek Crossing
District Name (or "Forestwide")	Salmon River Ranger District
County where project located?	Idaho County
FS Personnel Name, Phone Number and Email <i>If a partnership, please add name, phone and email; however, an FS employee MUST BE the project proponent and point of contact.</i>	Crystal Planer; crystal.dannarplaner@usda.gov (208) 839-2128 Alyssa Badertscher; alyssa.badertscher@usda.gov (208) 839-2120
Legal Location	T 28N R 3E Section 8
Decision Maker's Name	Jeffrey Shinn, SRRD District Ranger
Is the project associated with meeting a Forest target?	No
Which CE Category does this project fit? <i>Provide citation: 36 CFR 220.6(e)(x)</i>	36 CFR 220.6(e)(9) <u>(9) Implementation or modification of minor management practices to improve allotment condition or animal distribution when an allotment management plan is not yet in place. Examples include but are not limited to:</u> (i) Rebuilding a fence to improve animal distribution; (ii) Adding a stock watering facility to an existing water line; and (iii) Spot seeding native species of grass or applying lime to maintain forage condition.
** A Project Record and written Decision are not required for projects using <u>a 36 CFR 220.6 (d) category</u>, except at the Decision Maker's discretion. IF being submitted under <u>36 CFR 220.6 (d) category</u>, does the Decision Maker want a written Decision? Yes No	

At what level does the Decision Maker want the project scoped?

Internal X External*

Internal scoping will be through the Small NEPA IDT, unless otherwise specified. Scoping would be documented in the Extraordinary Circumstances Checklist.

External scoping will be with the public via a scoping letter, a legal notice, and the scoping letter posted on the NPCWNF website. The Project will only be scoped to the Tribe(s) et al (see block below) unless otherwise specified.

Provide names and mailing addresses of the individuals, groups, agencies, etc. to be included for External Scoping.

- DO NOT leave this box blank: **If no additional individuals are to be externally scoped please enter NA.**

NA

Does the Decision Maker want a Legal Notice published in the Lewiston Tribune? Yes No X

The scoping period will be 14 days unless the Decision Maker wants to change it. Days

What Level of Analysis (below) does the Decision Maker want for the Project?

 X **Low level:** Choose this level if the project's level of public scrutiny is expected to be relatively low or unknown. Documentation for low level analysis projects would be a completed Extraordinary Circumstances checklist filled out by the specialists, including the name of the specialist who performed the analysis, the project name, and date it was completed. No other written documentation would be generated.

 Moderate level: Choose this level if the project's level of public scrutiny is expected to be relatively moderate to high. In this case, specialists would complete the Extraordinary Circumstances checklist with the only write up being for resources that are present and the rationale for the effects call. No write up would be given for items in the checklist that are not present.

If the determination is no effect (which most CE's should have zero to very little adverse effects), then document *why* that determination was made in one paragraph or less. If the determination is an adverse effect, then *why* that determination was made would be written in less than three paragraphs.

List the Management Area(s) in which your project is located.

12B: Manage for timber production and other multiple uses on a sustained yield basis.

10: Manage riparian areas to maintain and enhance their value for wildlife, fishery and aquatic habitat, and water quality.

What are the Management Area(s)' Goals and Standards?

12B Range:

1. *Administer allotments to protect the timber resource. Transitory forage will be available for livestock use after regeneration is established.*
2. *Design structures for protection of regeneration and to facilitate livestock distribution.*
3. *Delay range forage improvements until regeneration has been established.*

10 Range:

1. *Manage existing grazing to protect or enhance riparian-dependent resources.*
3. *Maintain riparian habitat in good or better condition by developing intensive grazing systems and structural improvements, or by reductions in stock.*

** Goals and Standards are described in Chapter 3 of the Nez Perce and Clearwater Forest Plans. Include any **relevant** Forestwide Standards found in Chapter 2 of the Forest Plans as well.*

Is the project in a designated Idaho Roadless Area (IRA)? Yes No

If yes, which one?

Is the project in a congressionally designated area, ex. Wilderness Area, Wild & Scenic River Corridor, Research Natural Area, Historic Trail, etc.? Yes No

If yes, which one(s)?

Are there Floodplains or Wetlands in the project area? Yes No

Are there Municipal Watersheds in the project area? Yes No

If yes, which one?

Is the project located in an RHCA? Yes No

Describe the Existing Conditions of the project area.

The crossing is in the Pinnacle Ridge Pasture of the White Bird Creek Allotment. Lower Swartz Meadow is an important source of forage within Pinnacle Pasture. While moving between Bentz and Pinnacle ridges livestock use the abundance of trails in the area one of which crosses Pinnacle Creek. Concentration of use at this crossing has recently increased due to implementation of the “natural barrier” project that used native materials to impede livestock from crossing in other locations and significantly altering the stream bank. Currently the crossing is a wide, muddy bog that is difficult to cross and negatively impact the flow of Pinnacle Creek. Photos are included in “Additional Information.”

Grazing Terms:

Allotment	Permittee	Season of Use	Term Livestock #
White Bird Creek	Ray & Lisa Holes + Kevin Zumwalt	May 18 – October 18	400 C/c

Even Years:

Pasture	Cow/calf pairs	Planned Rotation
Bentz Ridge	200	5/18 to 6/18
Pinnacle Ridge	100	6/19 to 7/5

Odd Years:

Pasture	Cow/calf pairs	Planned Rotation
Pinnacle Ridge	200	9/22 to 10/8
Bentz Ridge	200	10/9 to 11/20

Describe the Desired Conditions of the project area.

An improved creek crossing would reduce livestock impacts to Pinnacle Creek and Swartz meadow by improving bank stability. A reduction in long-term in-stream sediment, and enhanced aquatic and riparian habitat of Pinnacle Creek and Swartz Meadow, respectively, are anticipated results of improved bank stability. Other projects such as directional felling of nearby trees to protect the streambank were completed; these actions reduced livestock access to other reaches of the creek, which will likely increase use at the crossing site. Other recently completed projects, such as directional felling of nearby trees, help protect the streambank but areas that are already significantly impacted would benefit from additional protection.

What is the Purpose and Need for the proposed action?

The purpose of this project is to provide a hardened livestock crossing on Pinnacle Creek that minimizes impacts to stream banks. The current condition of the crossing site features unstable banks which have increased erosion into the creek, resulting in increased in-stream sediment and a muddy, difficult traverse.

Describe the Proposed Action.

What is provided will be used in the Scoping Letter (*external only*), by the resource specialists for their effects analyses, and in the Decision document

Personnel Implementing project: USFS personnel, a contractor may be required.

Project Implementation Location(s): Where the 479 spur trail crosses Pinnacle Creek in lower Swartz Meadow.

Project area access: A network of ATV trails surround Swartz Meadow and would provide access to bring materials down to the site. The 1870 road is nearby uphill south of the meadow as well, providing access for larger vehicles.

Specific actions / activities implemented: A low water ford would be constructed across Pinnacle Creek. Various sizes of base rock (or equivalent) would be required to harden and support the crossing. Rock placement would be within the stream crossing covering the existing width, as well as, extend onto the banks creating a rock approach on either side to a distance made practical by surrounding timber. The rock source is located on the 221 Road near its junction with the 1870 road.

Equipment Used: A mini-excavator or other small equipment for bringing in materials and gravel/rock of various sizes to reinforce the ford.

Permits Needed: No permits required.

Potential Access Restrictions: None anticipated.

Post-implementation Monitoring: Pinnacle Creek (throughout Swartz Meadow) is a Designated Monitoring Area (DMA) and checked as part of ongoing annual Rangeland Monitoring. The crossing is within the DMA and would be checked by Range staff.

Identify and report invasive species infestations, on or adjacent to the activity sites, to the District Weed Coordinator.

Implementation Timeline: Upon approval, construction could begin as early as Summer 2021.

Please use the word 'would' in your descriptions, not 'will'. This is a proposal that might be implemented, not will be implemented. Thanks.

List the Design Feature / Mitigation Measures to be included with the Proposed Action.

Noxious Weeds

Remove all mud, soil, and plant parts from “Off-road equipment” (includes all logging and construction machinery, except for log trucks, chip vans, service vehicles, water trucks, pickup trucks, cars, and similar vehicles) prior to initial mobilization and any subsequent mobilizations, to limit the spread of noxious weeds. If Purchaser desires to clean Off-Road Equipment on National Forest land, they shall obtain prior approval from Contracting Officer as to the location for such cleaning and measures, if any, for controlling impacts.

Small NEPA IDT/resource specialists are listed below. Contact them if you have any questions regarding their resource for your project.

Botany – Mike Hays, mike.hays@usda.gov; 983-4028

Fisheries – Derrick Bawdon, derrick.bawdon@usda.gov; 963-4211

Heritage – Christy Mog, christy.mog@usda.gov; 935-4269

Hydrology – TBD

Minerals – Marty Jones, martin.jones@usda.gov; 983-5158

Recreation – Carol Hennessey, carol.hennessey@usda.gov; 935-4270

Soils – Alex Rozin, alexandra.rozin@usda.gov, 842-2100

Wild and Scenic River – Chris Noyes, chris.noyes@usda.gov; 935-4251

Wildlife – Jim Lutes, james.r.lutes@usda.gov; 963-4202

Small NEPA Planner – Jeff Chynoweth, james.chynoweth@usda.gov; 935-4260

PROJECT MAPS

Please send – per the instructions outlined below – a GIS-generated map or maps of the project area (pdf format only) with the project submission.

- **Make sure that the map layers can be turned on / off / are editable.**
- **Make sure the map(s) can fit on an 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper.**

1. Provide at least one map, **preferably “portrait” orientation**, with the project area / features as:
 - a Point, e.g. culvert, bridge, etc.,
 - a Line, e.g. fence, road, creek, etc., and/or
 - a Polygon, e.g. stand boundaries, treatment areas, etc.
 - Do not use a point if treating an area, use a polygon.
 - Points/lines/polygons need to be distinct and easily found on the map.
 - The project area / site needs to be centered on the map, especially if only one area/feature.
2. Please **use the Forest Visitor Map as your map’s base layer**.
 - Do not add contour lines to the FV map unless needed for clarifying the proposed action. Contour lines can make the map difficult to read.
 - If contour lines are needed, make sure they are distinguishable from other linear features such as roads, trails, streams, etc.
 - A topo map can be substituted for the FV map. If using a topo map but the contour lines are not important the topo lines should be light gray or opaque.
 - Regardless of base map, make sure there are identifiable elements, e.g. towns, roads, streams, etc. on the map to help locate the project area on the landscape and that the elements are clearly labeled.
3. The **preferred map scale is whatever scale best presents the project area’s location and proposed activities**:
 - If the 1:24K scale is too small (i.e. the project feature(s) – point/line/polygon – would be hard to find or would be indistinguishable on just one map), use a larger scale to show the overall project area (coarse scale map) and smaller scaled maps to show the project features (fine scale map).
 - If the 1:24K scale is too big (i.e. the project feature is a tiny point or thin line lost/hard to find on the larger landscape), use a smaller scale to highlight the feature while ensuring there are elements on the map to identify the project’s location.
 - If you need to make additional maps, please make as few as possible.
4. At a minimum, **all maps should include**:
 - Title (project name and district name only (please));
 - Legend (features clearly labeled)
 - Scale (ending in half miles, e.g. 0__0.25__0.5 miles, or in full miles, e.g. 0__0.25__0.5__1.0 miles)
 - North Arrow
 - Display the above in boxes with a black outline and a white background (not gray or yellow)
 - Do not ‘Halo’ the text or numbers or anything else on the map. Please.
 - The Scale needs to be large enough to read the numbers.
5. Finally, please **include the mapmakers name and the date it was created on the map**.

The Map(s) you provide will be used for Scoping the Public and the Tribes and in the Decision document. Please make sure they show – clearly, effectively, and professionally – what activity or activities are being proposed and where they are located on the Nez Perce - Clearwater National Forests.

SHAPEFILES

The resource specialists require the shapefile(s) of the project's proposed activities before they will conduct their analyses. Providing the shapefile does not substitute for providing a pdf map.

The Project Proponent needs to send the shapefile, or a location where the shapefile can be found, to the Small NEPA Planner (currently: jjchynoweth@usda.gov) by the time or shortly after the District Ranger submits this form.

- Shapefiles need to include the Project Name and have the Feature (culvert, bridge, etc.) labeled.
- Shapefiles need to include the following extensions – .dbf, .prj, .sbn, .shp, .shx, and .xml.

Projects in Roadless Area

What is the Inventoried Roadless Area name?	<u>Forest Plan IRA Name (if different):</u>
Identify the Idaho Roadless Management Classification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Wild Land Recreation</i> • <i>Special Areas of Historic or Tribal Significance</i> • <i>Primitive</i> • <i>Backcountry Restoration</i> • <i>General Forest, Rangeland and Grassland</i> 	Classification(s):
Does the project involve constructing or reconstructing roads? Yes* No	
Does the project involve cutting trees? Yes* No	
Does the project involve removing minerals, including common variety minerals? Yes* No	

JC : 6/26/2020

Additional Information:

